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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147720

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, MARR, PGOV, UNSC, BY, RW, UG

SUBJECT: RWANDA: JOINT DEMARCHEES TO BURUNDI AND UGANDA

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IN SUPPORT OF UN PEACEKEEPING DEPLOYMENT IN RWANDA

REF: A) STATE 144262 B) USUN 2316 C) KAMPALA 4460

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. USUN NEW YORK HAS APPROACHED THE UN SECRETARIAT AND UN MISSIONS OF INTERESTED MEMBER STATES (PER REF A) TO SUGGEST JOINT DEMARCHE TO BURUNDI AND UGANDAN AUTHORITIES REQUESTING USE OF THEIR TERRITORY IN SUPPORT OF AN EXPANDED PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN RWANDA. AS A RESULT OF THOSE APPROACHES (REF B). USUN PLANS MAKING A PARALLEL DEMARCHE TO THE BURUNDI AND UGANDA PERM REPS ON JUNE 3 JOINTLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERS OF THE RWANDAN OBSERVER GROUP (I.E., BELGIUM. FRANCE. GERMANY. AND THE OAU). EMBASSIES ARE ALSO INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH UN OFFICES AND MISSIONS OF THE RWANDAN OBSERVER GROUP IN BUJUMBURA AND KAMPALA TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BURUNDI AND UGANDAN OFFICIALS IN THE CAPITALS. TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED IN PARA 5 BELOW FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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USE BY USUN AND EMBASSIES. END SUMMARY.

3. FOR BUJUMBURA. AS REPORTED IN REF B, UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SRSG OULD ABDALLAH WOULD BE THE LOGICAL PERSON TO MAKE THE UN DEMARCHE TO THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT, BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE A STRONG OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD MAKE THAT DEMARCHE SEPARATELY OR JOINTLY WITH INTERESTED EMBASSIES. POST SHOULD APPROACH ABDALLAH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE APPROACH.

4. FOR KAMPALA. FOR THE DEMARCHE TO UGANDAN OFFICIALS. THE UN HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE UNOMUR ACTING COMMANDER COULD GO UP TO KAMPALA FROM KABALE TO REPRESENT THE UN. USUN HAS SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT WANT TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE JOINTLY WITH OTHERS SINCE HE DOES NOT HAVE THE STATURE OF SRSG OULD ABDALLAH. POST SHOULD DISCUSS MOST SUITABLE APPROACH WITH HIM. WE WILL ALSO LEAVE IT TO POSTS' DISCRETION WHETHER AMBASSADOR CARSON SHOULD (PER REF C) MAKE THE DEMARCHE TELEPHONICALLY TO PRESIDENT MUSEVENI WHO IS NOW TRAVELLING IN EUROPE.

5. BEGIN TALKING POINTS.

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-- AS YOU KNOW, ON MAY 17, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVED EXPANSION OF UNAMIR TO UP TO 5,500 TROOPS WITH A HUMANITARIAN MANDATE TO FACILITATE RELIEF EFFORTS AND HELP PROTECT THREATENED CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF THE EXPANDED
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UNAMIR FORCE IS CRUCIAL TO ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN DISASTER AND HELPING CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS.

-- BY HELPING TO BRING AID AND PROTECTION TO DISPLACED PERSONS AND THREATENED CIVILIAN ENCLAVES' UNAMIR SHOULD HELP STEM THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES AND DETER FURTHER ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, THEREBY IMPROVING CHANCES FOR A DURABLE CEASEFIRE AND RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL PEACE TALKS.

-- BY HELPING STEM REFUGEE OUTFLOWS AND PROMOTING A STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION, UNAMIR CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN CONTAINING THE CRISIS AND HELPING PRESERVE STABILITY IN THE REGION.

-- HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE KIGALI AREA MAKES KIGALI AN UNSUITABLE LOGISTICAL BASE FOR THE EXPANDED UNAMIR OPERATION. THE KIGALI AIRPORT REMAINS INSECURE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE REPEATED CANCELLATION OF UN RELIEF FLIGHTS.

-- FOR THIS REASON, THE UN MUST CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE LOGISTICAL BASES OUTSIDE RWANDA. THE AIRPORT IN YOUR CAPITAL HAS THE CAPABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE TRANSPORT PLANES, AND YOUR COUNTRY HAS A GOOD NETWORK OF ROADS INTO RWANDA.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UN HAS ASKED TO USE YOUR TERRITORY AS A LOGISTICAL BASE FOR THE EXPANDED UNAMIR OPERATION.

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-- WE URGE YOU TO AGREE TO THE UN REQUEST.

-- A CROSS-BORDER OPERATION FROM YOUR TERRITORY WILL HELP RESOLVE THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEM AND WOULD ALLOW UNAMIR TO REACH THREATENED POPULATIONS BEHIND THE BATTLE LINES WHILE MINIMIZING THE THREAT TO UNAMIR TROOPS.

-- THE OPERATION HAS A PURELY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE. THE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE USED TO INTERVENE IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING PARTIES, AND UNAMIR WOULD OF COURSE REMAIN COMPLETELY NEUTRAL.

-- BOTH THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF HAVE ACCEPTED THE PLAN TO EXPAND UNAMIR AND HAVE SAID THEY WILL COOPERATE WITH THE UN IN THIS HUMANITARIAN DEPLOYMENT.

END TALKING POINTS. TARNOFF

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